



# John M. C. Smith



## Memorial Addresses

DELIVERED IN THE HOUSE  
OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
UNITED STATES IN MEMORY OF  
JOHN M. C. SMITH

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE  
FROM MICHIGAN



Sixty-Eighth Congress

APRIL 27, 1924



GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
WASHINGTON  
1925

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PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

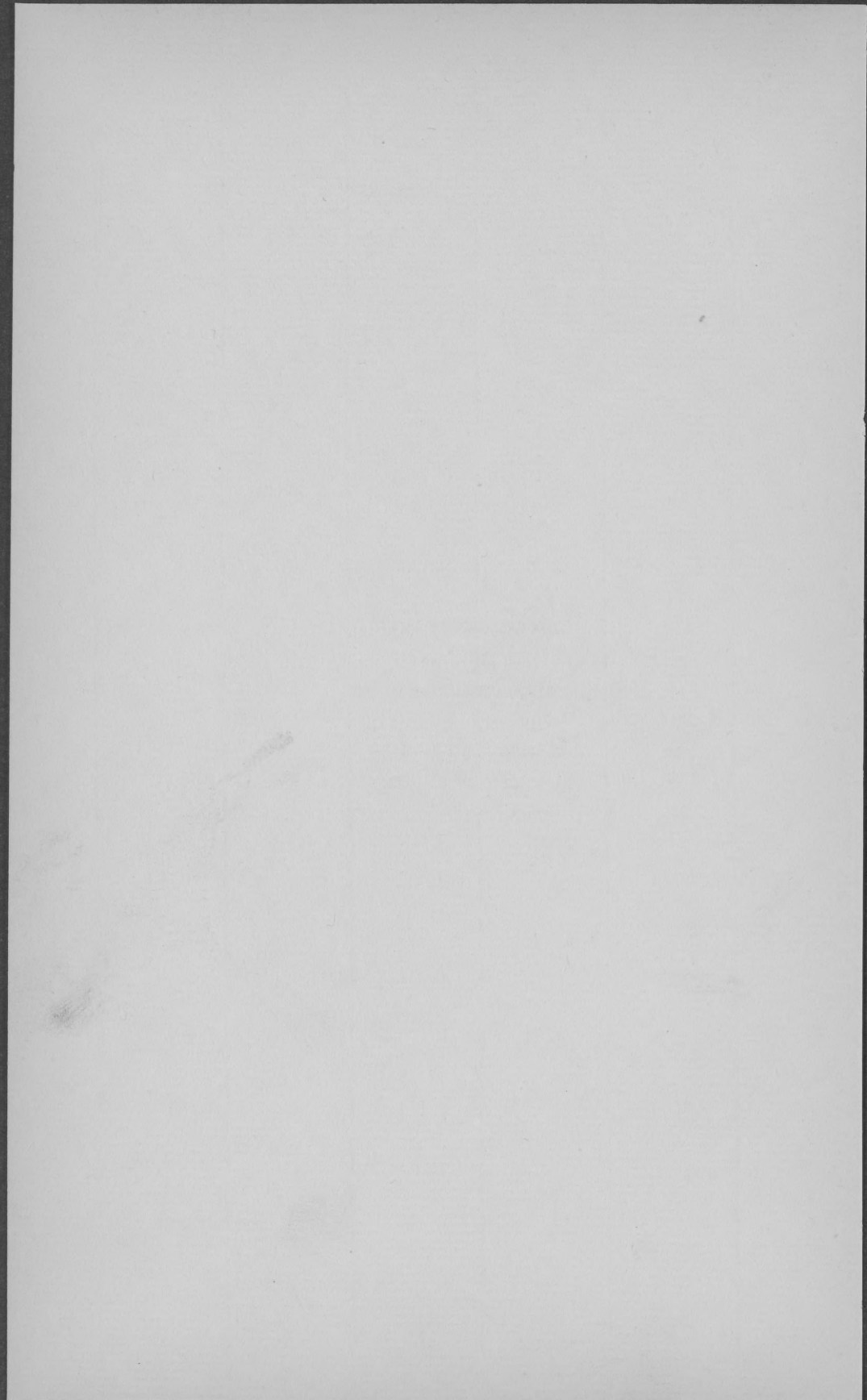
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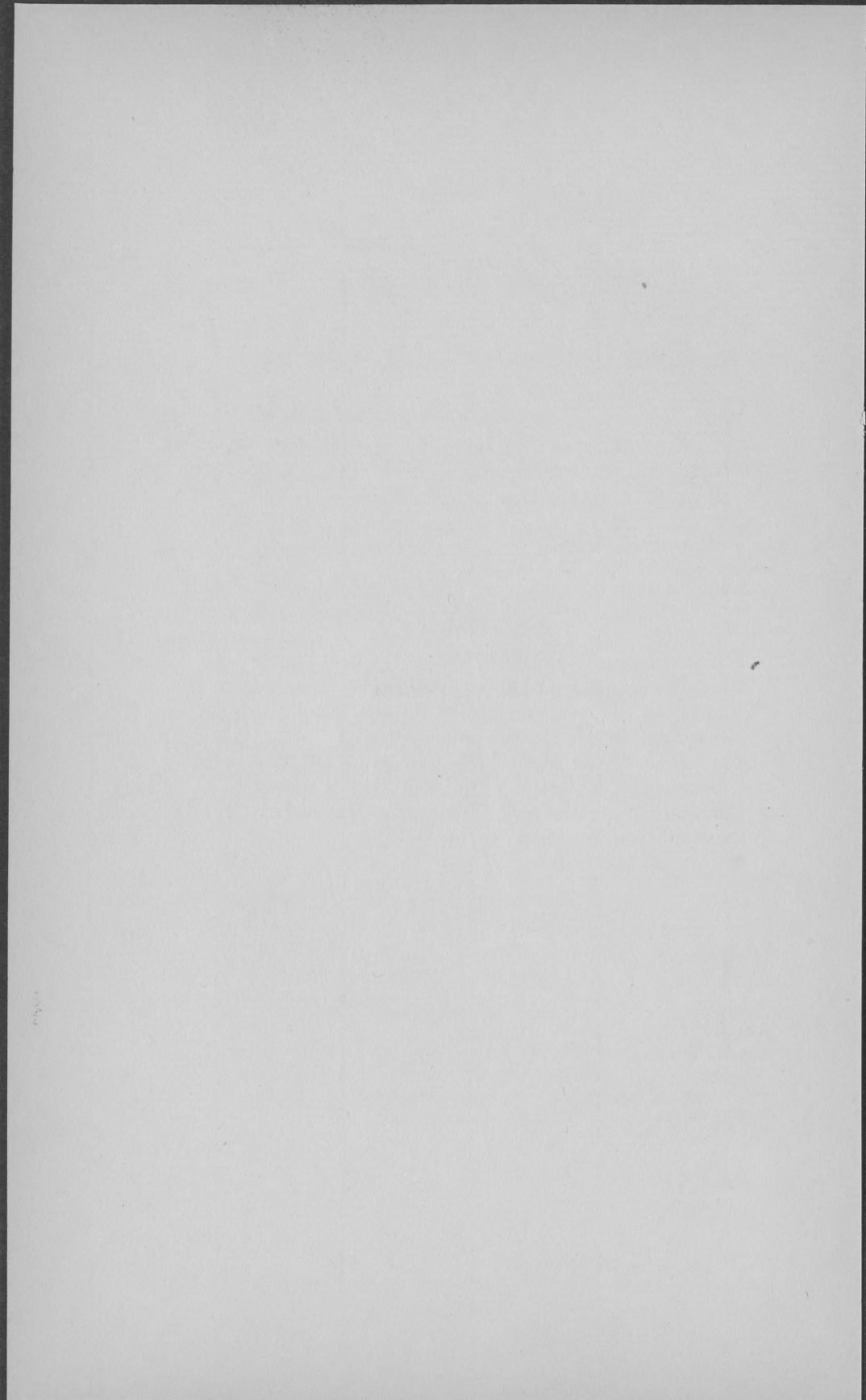
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Proceedings  
in the  
House of Representatives



# John M. C. Smith



## Proceedings in the House of Representatives

WEDNESDAY, December 5, 1923.

Mr. McLAUHGLIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolution, and move its adoption.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 20) as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, a Representative from the State of Michigan.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. LONGWORTH. Mr. Speaker, as a further mark of respect to the memory of our deceased colleague I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; and accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 40 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Thursday, December 6, 1923, at 12 o'clock noon.

THURSDAY, December 13, 1923.

A message from the Senate, by Mr. Craven, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolutions:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

*Resolved further*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

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## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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MONDAY, April 7, 1924.

Mr. McLAUGHLIN of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Sunday, April 27, be set aside for memorial addresses on the life, character, and public services of our late colleague, Hon. J. M. C. SMITH, of Michigan, and that the House meet at 11 o'clock on that day.

The SPEAKER. The gentleman from Michigan asks unanimous consent that Sunday, April 27, be set aside for memorial exercises on the late Mr. SMITH, of Michigan, and that the House meet at 11 o'clock on that day. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none.

SUNDAY, April 27, 1924.

The House met at 11 o'clock a. m., and was called to order by Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan as Speaker pro tempore.

Rev. William B. Waller, of Washington, D. C., offered the following prayer:

*Almighty and everliving God, whose we are and whom we serve, we draw nigh to Thee reverently at this time. May we ever live as though we really believe in Thee as the personal and righteous Ruler and Father and Savior of mankind.*

*Command Thy blessing upon us, we humbly beseech Thee; upon this Congress here represented; upon our President and all in authority. Comfort those that are sad. Bless us all in our respective relations, teaching us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom, being made wise unto salvation which is in Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.*



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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will read the special order for the day.

The Clerk read as follows:

On motion of Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan, by unanimous consent,

*Ordered*, That Sunday, April 27, 1924, at 11 o'clock a. m., be set aside for memorial addresses on the life, character, and public services of Hon. J. M. C. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

Mr. MAPES. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution, which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read (H. Res. 271) as follows:

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. J. M. C. SMITH, late a member of this House from the State of Michigan.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House at the conclusion of the exercises of this day shall stand adjourned.

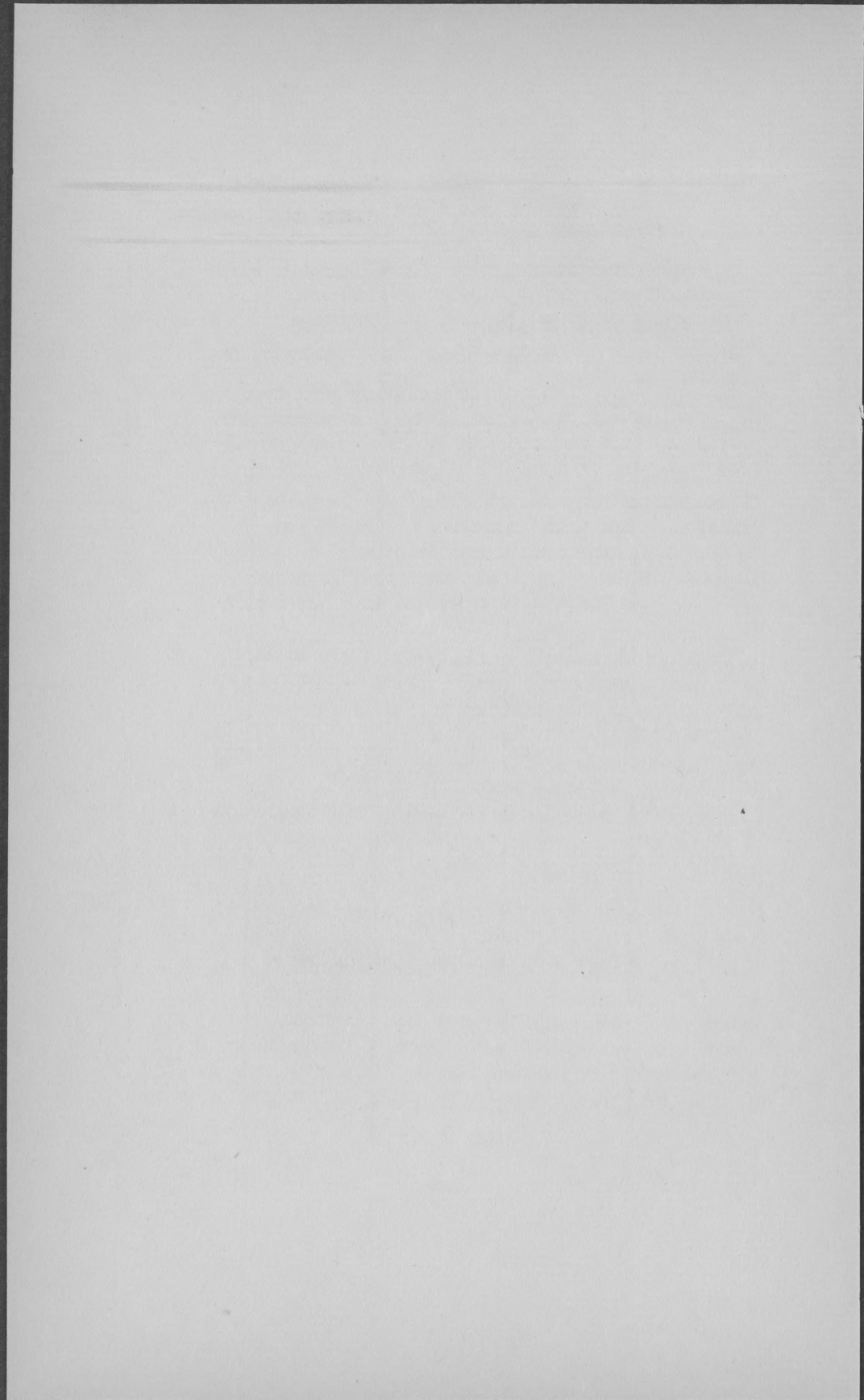
*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.





**Address by Representative Williams**  
*Of Michigan*

Mr. SPEAKER: Having lived during my earlier life in the county where he resided, I was fortunate in having an intimate and cordial acquaintance with JOHN M. C. SMITH for more than 30 years. It was in his law office that I studied, and it was from his office that I proceeded to a near-by city to commence the practice of the law. He exerted a deep influence upon me, and so to-day as his successor in Congress I speak of him with more than ordinary feeling.

Those of his associates in Congress who were not so closely acquainted with his career before coming here, although they learned to love and appreciate him, can hardly be fully aware of the unusual hold that he had upon the community in which he had lived for such a long time.

Mr. SMITH was born in Ireland in 1853 and when 4 years of age came to this country with his parents, Richard and Barbara Smith, who first settled in the State of Ohio. Ten years later the family moved to Eaton County, Mich. The early life of Mr. SMITH, like that of so many who have reached a position of distinction, was not one of luxury and ease. He was brought up at a time when the responsibilities of life were imposed upon the oncoming generation. Struggle and effort were his constant companions, and the tasks that he had to do as a young man contributed to

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the development of a character that for many years stood out most prominently in the State of Michigan. His education was secured in the public schools of Eaton County and the city of Charlotte, followed by three years in the literary and law departments of the University of Michigan. The remainder of his legal training was obtained in the city of Detroit, where in 1882 he was admitted to the bar.

Shortly thereafter he opened a law office in the city of Charlotte, where he continued in the active practice of his profession until he was elected to Congress in 1910.

Few men in his section of the State have ever been accorded higher honors or have served the people in a larger number of important capacities. Among other offices held by him, he was for four years prosecuting attorney of his county and handled the affairs of that office with great credit. He was also a member of the 1908 constitutional convention of Michigan that rewrote and promulgated the constitution which is now serving as the basic law of that State.

Mr. SMITH was a good lawyer. He had the capacity for work which is so essential in that profession. He was a student of the statutes and the decisions of the courts, but perhaps what contributed most to his marked success as a lawyer was his ability to understand the best business interests of his clients and to accomplish for them by adjustments and short cuts the results that they desired. Above all, in the contacts made necessary in the practice of the law he understood

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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human nature in a very thorough way and how to cope with the mental processes and reactions of witnesses, opposing counsel, courts, and juries. He was able to do this because he had had a fundamental training and experience in practical affairs. His integrity was unquestioned. He never permitted his zeal for the interests of a client to cause him to lose poise or his unvarying affability and good nature.

Mr. SMITH was for a long period an outstanding leader in the city and county in which he lived and a prominent figure in his State. He did not content himself entirely with the practice of his profession, but was associated with several important business enterprises. He was a member of the firm of L. J. Smith & Co., of Eaton Rapids, Mich., manufacturers of egg cases and fillers and the operators of a large farm. For many years he served as the president of the First National Bank of Charlotte. Whenever a new enterprise was planned, he was the first one whose assistance was solicited. He was generous always in extending financial help and in lending the weight of his counsel.

Mr. SMITH touched every phase of activity of the people among whom he lived. He was a thirty-second degree Mason, and in his Masonic activities rendered invaluable aid in erecting the beautiful Masonic Temple at Charlotte. He was also a member of numerous other social and fraternal organizations.

In October, 1887, Mr. SMITH was married to Miss Lena Parkhurst, of Charlotte, who survives him.

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Besides his widow he left two children—Lucille, the wife of Jack D. Clifford, of Lewiston, Me., and William P. Smith, who for a number of years acted as his father's congressional secretary.

Mr. SMITH represented the third district of Michigan in Congress from the time of his election in 1910 until March 4, 1921. He had voluntarily retired and did not seek reelection in 1920, but his successor unexpectedly died, and in June, 1921, he was again elected to Congress to fill the vacancy thus caused. He was reelected in 1922. After an illness of several months he died March 30, 1923. He was never defeated for Congress at any election and, if he had lived, could have continued as the Representative from his district indefinitely, because of the high regard in which he was held by his constituents.

You gentlemen who were intimately associated with Mr. SMITH in the House can speak more comprehensively of his work here. I am very gratified to say that since coming here I have heard many kind and complimentary words spoken with reference to him. Here, as in other places, his friends seem to have been drawn closely to him, and his diligence, keen insight, and ability gained for him a merited recognition.

When I came to make a campaign for election there was confirmed upon every hand and by hundreds of people in each county in the district what I already well knew, that he had a very large personal following; that he had always responded most graciously and fully to every demand that had been made upon him by the people of his



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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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district; and that to an exceptional degree he had their confidence and good will.

There is nothing finer than the tender feeling and sentiment that grows out of close personal friendships. In this particular the life of JOHN M. C. SMITH was a very full one. His public service is highly appreciated and he will long be remembered in his district and throughout the State of Michigan as having faithfully fulfilled every trust and as being worthy in every respect of the honors that were extended him. Such a life as his and the very admirable position which he held through it all and to the very end should serve as a commendable example to those who follow after and attempt to take up and continue the work in which he was engaged.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan [Mr. Mapes] will please take the chair.

Mr. Mapes assumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.



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## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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### **Address by Representative McLaughlin Of Michigan**

MR. SPEAKER: Our colleague, the late JOHN M. C. SMITH, passed away at his home in Charlotte, Mich., March 30, 1923, after a long illness which for many months incapacitated him from such attention to his official duties as he had conscientiously given during his years of service as Representative of his district.

MR. SMITH was born in Ireland and came to this country in his youth. During his early manhood he followed the trade of a stonemason, later attending the literary and law departments of the University of Michigan, and was admitted to the bar and practiced his profession to the time of his death. It was at the university that I first met him, and the acquaintance we formed there continued and became intimate friendship as we served together in the House of Representatives after his election in 1910 until his death.

Besides his practice of the law MR. SMITH engaged in farming and for many years was a director and president of the First National Bank of Charlotte. Experience gained as he worked at his trade and as a lawyer and in business fitted him well for service as a Member of this House; it was development and preparation which few Members have for the manifold, complex duties of the National Congress.

During MR. SMITH's service of 12 years in the House he was a member of important committees.

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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For 10 years he was a member of the Committee on Labor, two years as its chairman; for several years was a member of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds; and during the Sixty-seventh Congress was a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

At the organization of the first Congress of which Mr. SMITH was a Member he was, at his own urgent request, made a member of the Committee on Labor. As he expressed himself he wished a place on that committee because of his interest in wage earners and in people of small business and limited means, because he felt that he appreciated their claim upon the watchful, sympathetic interest of the Congress in the enactment of laws relating to their employment and their business for the protection of their interests and the advancement of their welfare, as far as laws may be proper or necessary for that purpose. All matters referred to and engaging the attention of that committee were considered by Mr. SMITH in keeping with the earnest, sympathetic attitude of mind he had so feelingly expressed. But he never assumed to act as the representative of any class or interest as those terms are often indefinitely and unpleasantly used; nor was he in any respect influenced by sectional prejudice. His was a broad, intelligent, unbiased conception of duty to all people and all interests alike and to the entire country. The years of his service bear abundant evidence of desire and ability to conform to that high standard of responsibility from which I am confident he never permitted himself to depart.

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The first session of the Congress attended by Mr. SMITH was the special session called by President Taft, April 4, 1911, for the purpose, mainly, of considering a measure to approve and give effect to the Canadian reciprocity pact, so called, which had been negotiated between our Government and the government of the Dominion of Canada. That pact related to tariff duties at that time imposed by our laws upon imports from foreign countries and to similar duties imposed by the Dominion government upon products of our country entering Canada. It proposed to reduce import duties upon many products of Canada, also to place some of them on the free list; and in consideration of such reduction and removal of duties the Dominion government proposed to take similar action; that is, to reduce and in some instances remove duties at that time charged against certain products of our country which entered and found a market in Canada.

The wisdom and advisability of this reciprocity pact was very seriously questioned, and there was determined opposition to it in the Congress and throughout the country largely, if not altogether, by Republicans who, devoted as they are to the principle of protective tariff, believed the pact was a violation of that principle and its operation would be harmful to producers, to labor, and to business of our country.

It was proposed by a Republican administration and was supported by nominal leaders of that political party in the Congress, among whom was Mr. Payne, chairman of the Committee on Ways

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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and Means in the previous Congress, which prepared the tariff law of 1909 which bears his name, which law the pact would in important respects amend.

The measure was, however, vigorously opposed by many Republicans, who believed it was contrary to party principles and that it would be harmful to our interests, particularly to agriculture. Among those who opposed it was our late colleague, Mr. SMITH, who believed agricultural interests of Michigan, by reason of its location, would be very injuriously affected. He was a new Member, but he early, consistently, and with marked ability opposed the measure, believing it was violative of a great principle of the political party to which he was devoted and would have a seriously injurious effect upon agricultural interests of his district and State. It was his first participation in debate in the House, but in face of the fact that he and others who labored with him were unsuccessful the evidence he gave of wide and accurate information, also of ability and courage in presenting his views, brought him very favorably to the notice of the House.

We who served with Mr. SMITH in the Sixty-third Congress remember the active part he took and the influence he exerted in the consideration of the bill and in securing enactment of the law to establish the Federal reserve banking system, the wise and comprehensive system now functioning so satisfactorily in advancing and protecting not only banking interests but business interests large and small throughout the country.



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The broad experience of his busy life, his intimate and practical knowledge of business and of banking made him an authority on the important and more or less intricate matters involved in the preparation of that bill, and his discussion of its important features, of which there was often wide difference of opinion, was always helpful to the House. He was a ready, forceful speaker, and of unusual influence because of the information he was able to give and of the sincere, straightforward manner of his speech.

Mr. SMITH's congressional service included the period of the World War. That period, particularly the years of the participation of our country in the war, was in some respects the most important in the history of our country. It satisfactorily determined the serious question of whether or not our complex population of many different elements had become so assimilated as to lose their diversity of character and had become a united citizenship loyal to one another and to the Government; determined also that in time of crisis the administration and the Congress, entirely relieved of partisan differences which sometimes embarrass them, are able to marshal the resources of our country in such a manner as promptly to make effective its full strength.

During the years in which the Congress was in almost continuous session dealing with serious war problems and with perplexing conditions following the war Mr. SMITH devoted himself untiringly to exacting demands of congressional service. He was active and influential in the preparation and

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enactment of legislation to provide for our effective participation in the war and as was necessary as the country sought to return to normal conditions of peace. He was proud of the service of our soldiers and was sympathetic of their trials and suffering.

No Member of our body took a more active, intelligent part in support of legislation intended for the relief of disabled soldiers and their dependent families; none took more sympathetic, helpful interest in their welfare. The work of our colleague during these years of war and reconstruction was beyond his strength; his arduous labors, loyally, unselfishly, and with unusual ability performed, impaired his health and brought upon him his fatal illness.

It was my sad privilege to attend the funeral service of our colleague in the beautiful city of Charlotte, and I shall always remember the impression it made upon me. Many years of his life were spent there; his life had been part of the social, official, and business life of that intelligent, enterprising community. Places of business, private as well as public, were closed; people of the city and of the neighboring country laid aside their business to pay loving tribute to memory of him who during long years had been their neighbor and friend, beloved in private life, trusted in official places to which they had advanced him. There was sincere grief on the part of those friends and neighbors; there was evidence of their appreciation of the splendid qualities of the man whose death they mourned. There were present men and



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women from the several counties composing the district he had long and with distinguished ability represented. They spoke of the confidence and esteem his life and service had inspired; they expressed the sorrow and sense of loss his untimely death imposed upon them. I was impressed that the most faithful estimate that can be made and the highest tribute a man can gain are by and from his friends and neighbors of long and intimate association; also that the estimate the House of Representatives had formed of our colleague was justified. It was an impressive scene long to be remembered by all who were privileged to witness it.

In the city of Charlotte and in outlying sections of the county there are houses and business buildings of brick and stone construction, built by or under the immediate direction of Mr. SMITH many years ago when he was actively following his trade as a builder. They are pointed out and spoken of as the work of his hands. They are evidently in good condition and stand as evidence of his skill and faithful workmanship, evidence of the sterling qualities he displayed in such large measure in the discharge of every duty devolving upon him in private and in public life. The interest his neighbors still have in these buildings and the pride with which they speak of them is an eloquent, touching tribute to his life's work, a faithful tribute to his worthy and well-earned fame. Nothing you or I can say will make the record of his service more impressive.

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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My personal acquaintance with Mr. SMITH began, as I have said, when we were students many years ago, and during our service of 12 years together in the House we were intimate friends. I therefore speak of him as a friend whose death is to me a personal loss. I am able, also, to testify to his fine character, his ability, his devotion to duty, to the respect for and trust in him shown by all who knew him, and of the success he reached as a Member of this body. During his long service he enjoyed and deserved the esteem of the entire membership and of those who knew him intimately. Everyone deeply regrets his death, and will remember him with sincere affection.

Mr. McLaughlin of Michigan resumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

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### *Address by Representative Mapes Of Michigan*

MR. SPEAKER: It was my fortune to have been a native of the county in which our departed friend and colleague was for so long a time a prominent and respected citizen and from which he was elected to this body, and I do not want this occasion to pass without taking advantage of the opportunity to pay my tribute of respect to his memory.

I knew of JOHN M. C. SMITH as far back as I can remember. He and my father were personal friends of long standing. I grew up in that friendship and, I am happy to say, inherited it. My recollection now is that as a boy and as an interested spectator, I first saw him in a county convention of his party, coming into the hall with a copy of the Michigan Statutes under his arm, walking up to the platform, and addressing the convention on some disputed question of procedure. He was then, as we knew him here, a man of commanding and stately appearance and a forceful and persuasive speaker.

Others have spoken more in detail of his life work and history. His life is one of the many striking illustrations of the opportunities of American citizenship for anyone who has the character and determination to take advantage of them. By his own efforts and perseverance and without the aid of influential relatives or friends he made his life one of constant progress and advancement

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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until he attained a position of prominence and influence in his State and Nation. Born in Ireland in 1853, he came to this country with his parents in 1857, as has been stated, and settled in the State of Ohio, moving to Eaton County, Mich., in 1867, where he spent the remainder of his life. He graduated from high school, worked 10 years as a bricklayer and stonemason, spent 2 years in the literary department and 2 years in the law department of the University of Michigan, working his way and paying his own expenses.

Upon being admitted to the bar he opened a law office at Charlotte, Mich., the county seat of Eaton County, where he soon became one of the leaders in his profession. He formed a partnership for the practice of law with the late Hon. George Huggett under the style of Huggett & Smith. This partnership was for many years the leading law firm of Eaton County. It continued until Mr. SMITH was elected president of the First National Bank of Charlotte, which position he held until his death.

At different times in his career Mr. SMITH was called upon to serve in public office. He was prosecuting attorney of his county for two terms, a member of the Michigan State Constitutional Convention in 1907, and was elected seven times to the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States by the people of the third congressional district of Michigan. In all these positions he served with ability and distinction, bringing credit to himself and honor to his constituents who elected him. He was an able, industrious, active,

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and influential Member of this body, faithful and attentive to the manifold duties which are incident to membership here.

In his home community he was a leader and active in all movements for the welfare and advancement of the general good of the community. In his home he was a devoted husband and father and took great pride in his family. In all the activities of his life he was recognized as a man of unimpeachable character and of the highest integrity.

After all one of the greatest things in life is so to live as to have and deserve the respect and esteem of one's neighbors and friends, of those with whom one comes in close and constant contact and who know him best. JOHN M. C. SMITH so lived.



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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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*Address by Representative Michener  
Of Michigan*

MR. SPEAKER: This, the greatest parliamentary body in all the world, has, by special order, set aside this day and this hour to pay tribute to the life and character of one of its honored Members. The sun shines brightly, there is not a cloud in the sky, the very atmosphere seems to radiate happiness and good cheer, just the kind of a day in its character symbolical of the everyday life of our lamented friend. If JOHN M. C. SMITH was anything he was an optimist. He always saw the flowers; he inhaled the fragrance. He met the situation of the hour. Undaunted he lived.

I remember well on one occasion when, after a hard day's work, Mr. SMITH entered my office, and upon my suggestion that I was tired and apparently seemed somewhat downcast, he said:

Gather ye rosebuds while ye may,  
Old Time is still a-flying;  
And this same flower that smiles to-day  
To-morrow will be a-dying.

"Cheer up."

Although 70 years of age, he still enjoyed the company and association of youth. When with college boys he was still a college boy, and the lads in his Greek letter fraternity at the University of Michigan always looked forward to the time when Mr. SMITH dropped into town. He never lost his



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interest in the young people and the young people never lost interest in him.

I knew of Mr. SMITH by reputation for many years before coming to Congress. I met him first in the closing hours of the Sixty-fifth Congress, and in the years that followed he was my friend; I was his admirer. Living at the same hotel in Washington for a long time, eating at the same table, the dinner hour was always a relaxation from the day's toils. I came to know him intimately, and the more I knew of him the more I wanted to know of him. Many a gloomy hour in many a man's life has been brightened by his happy disposition.

He was a man of the people, and to the American mind this phrase is richly significant. It denotes a self-reliant man of courage, energy, and perseverance who, by native ability and application, has carved his way to high and respected station among his fellow men. He best typified the possibilities for advancement and accomplishment under our flag. A poor boy, born in Ireland, he worked his way through school and college, and at last was elected by his neighbors to represent them in the Halls of Congress. He had the faith and confidence of his people. I dare say not a Member among us is closer to all of the people from the district which he represents. There was a mutual confidence and cordiality between him and his constituents, with a great number of whom he enjoyed personal and intimate acquaintance. He had magnetic openness of manner, which easily attracted friends and invited men to salute him in

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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terms of easy familiarity. In purpose he was sincere and ardent, and as he pursued his path through life he strove always to scatter seeds of kindness, to bring a smile to the face of sorrow, and to create happiness and hope.

One of the newspapers in his home city in commenting upon his death said:

With the passing of Mr. SMITH, Charlotte loses one of its most valued supporters and citizens, and hundreds of friends who as such will deeply miss his advice, which when sought was seldom refused. The county and State will also equally feel the loss. But a more than human being pauses upon the threshold of every human life. The idle balance wheel of time is disengaged and quicker revolutions of a great cycle bear him on the endless way. As comes the summons from the spheres above, so answers nature's dirge, and from the earth that falls away through the momentary darkness there rises a gleaming star! The square crosses the compass—an endless procession—but plenty of room.

Crown him, crown him, child of nature,  
Kingly now in form and feature;  
His the scepter—his the throne,  
Now that earth and death are done.

As a Member of this Congress he exerted wide influence. He was a consistent and reliable committee worker. He was active on the floor, and during his time few great questions were discussed where he did not participate in the debate.

As chairman of the great Committee on Labor he wielded much influence. He was safe and sane; he had every consideration for the farmer, but no use for the man who "farms the farmer." The laboring man in him had an advocate, but he who would

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exploit the honest laborer for personal aggrandizement got no sympathy from Mr. SMITH. He abhorred the demagogue, and the country can ill afford to lose men like him.

After giving 10 years of honorable service to his district he voluntarily retired and enthusiastically supported as his successor, Hon. William H. Frankhouser. Mr. SMITH retired in March, 1921, and when his successor died shortly thereafter there was an insistent demand from the third congressional district that Mr. SMITH take up his old duties, and in June, 1921, by the vote of the people he was recalled to Congress and died in the harness.

With a delegation from this body I attended the funeral. I saw the thousands there assembled, all in deep sorrow. To the older inhabitants he was "John"; to the younger generation he was "Mr. SMITH." To them all he was a friend. Never was there more real mourning than in that little city on that March day, and as we laid him away in a most beautiful cemetery, there to rest until the resurrection day, and listened to the comforting and eloquent words used in that service I was reminded of the words of Edgar Guest, used by Mr. SMITH in a memorial service in this House, when he said:

But I would like to have my story told  
By smiling friends with whom I've shared the way  
Who, thinking of me, nod their heads and say  
His heart was warm when other hearts were cold.

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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**Address by Representative Elliott**  
*Of Indiana*

MR. SPEAKER: We have met to-day to pay our last tribute to one of our most beloved and respected colleagues.

Some men are born great, others have greatness thrust upon them, while some achieve greatness and usefulness in the world by reason of their energy, integrity, and indomitable ambition to do something worth while in this life. Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, late Representative in Congress from the third congressional district of the State of Michigan, belonged to the latter class.

His early life was not different in many respects from that of the average boy of his generation. His parents were in modest circumstances, and he was a hearty, healthy country boy, possessing a rugged constitution and a strong intellect, two assets so essentially necessary in the make-up of a successful man. Early in life it became necessary for him to take up life's battle, and to use a homely expression in common use at that time, "To hoe his own row." So early in life he learned the painters' and masons' trades, and while supporting himself in this manner, he succeeded in getting through high school and later in taking a course in the University of Michigan. Later he became a successful lawyer and a banker, retaining at all times his love for the country. He was also to some extent engaged in agricultural pursuits.

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## MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

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He came to the Sixty-second Congress particularly well equipped to grapple with the great problems confronting this great legislative body. His experience as a farmer, artisan, lawyer, and banker gave him a keen insight into the problems confronting labor, capital, and the farmer; and the person who was in distress always found in him a friend. He was married in 1887 to Miss Lena Parkhurst. To this union two children, Lucile and William, were born and they, with their mother, survive him. His home life was happy and contented and his love for his family was noticeable at all times.

During the month of July, 1917, when the war clouds were hovering over all of the civilized world, I was elected to fill a vacancy in the Sixty-fifth Congress caused by the death of my predecessor, the late Daniel W. Comstock. I met Mr. SMITH on the day I arrived in Washington, and that was the beginning of a beautiful friendship which lasted until the day of his death.

JOHN M. C. SMITH was one of the men who lived a life that was worthy of emulation. He had many friends and no enemies. He will long be remembered and loved by his friends and colleagues.

In his death the State of Michigan has lost a useful and popular Representative in Congress, and his family a loving husband and father.



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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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*Address by Representative Ketcham  
Of Michigan*

MR. SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE: Excepting our honored colleague, the present Representative from the third congressional district of Michigan, it is doubtless my privilege to know the constituency of that district better than any other member of our delegation. There is scarcely a township in that district where I have not been privileged to meet groups of people and to learn at first hand their estimate of those whom they had chosen to represent them in both State and National legislative bodies. Basing my testimony upon this experience I can whole-heartedly say that the tributes paid by my colleagues to the character, ability, and public service of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH would find an echo in every home within the borders of the district which he served so long and acceptably.

As the memory of those "whom we have loved long since and lost awhile" is recalled there are outstanding impressions of personal qualities and characteristics that immediately take the center of the picture. I do not see JOHN M. C. SMITH as do those who enjoyed through many long years the close personal contacts with him. I do not see him as do those who shared with him the long period of service he rendered in the House of Representatives. I do see him as a true friend, as a trusted adviser, as an ideal citizen in his home community,

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and as one whose background of basic qualities and wide range of experience especially fitted him for a distinguished public career.

As a friend his interest manifested itself for me as a new Member of the House. He made many rough places smooth and many crooked paths straight for me in the first few months of my service. Every new member knows the value of such friendship and such advice. JOHN M. C. SMITH gave it freely and gladly.

It was a great joy to see him in his associations in his home community. He thought the thoughts of his people, he spoke their language, he was one of them. Their confidence, esteem, and love for him was shown on many public occasions. On the event of his death the expressions of sorrow were universal and sincere. Every person within the range of his acquaintance felt the loss of a true friend.

The celebrated English historian, Mr. H. G. Wells, sets forth an ideal for a successful life in these words, "Permanent influence through service." Measured by this standard the life of JOHN M. C. SMITH was eminently successful. In the memory of thousands there will be treasured through all the years his kind words and deeds. Local history will carry the story of his whole-souled interest in every enterprise or movement that led to improvement. Journals of his committees and the Congressional Record will carry to future generations the story of his consistent and constructive service to his country as a Member of the House. Life abundant was his; influence eternal is his.

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

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**Address by Representative Vincent**  
*Of Michigan*

MR. SPEAKER: I am unfortunate myself in not having had the long personal acquaintanceship with Mr. SMITH that others who have spoken here to-day can claim, nor have I ever had the privilege of sitting with him in a session of Congress. But no man could live in the State of Michigan as long as I have lived there without having at least some knowledge with respect to the life and character of our deceased colleague. Any man who at an early period of his life was a little immigrant boy, and who in the years of age can have it said of him that he was by far the most prominent man of his city and county, the president of its largest bank, and seven times chosen by his congressional district to represent it at the National Capital, is indeed a man endowed with great qualities.

There are different ways of achieving success of this kind, coming from such an humble origin. There are those who through ruthless energy climb to heights, careless of the feeling of others. But that was not the kind of success that JOHN M. C. SMITH achieved. Through this long climb from that humble youth of his to the place that he finally attained I know of no instance of his bruising the sensibilities or crushing the feelings of other people. It was my privilege to be on the congressional delegation that attended his funeral, and the evidence of this fact that I have just

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alluded to, of the kindliness of his spirit in the community in which he had laid the foundations of his success, was everywhere apparent.

His home was in a town that I consider somewhat unusual. It is a town in which its people take great pride, I am sure. The evidences around the homes and the shops and the trim public buildings show that they have great pride in keeping up the attractive appearance of their city. It is one in which, when you pass along its streets, you are moved to think that here lives an especially intelligent and industrious community. It is plainly a town of good citizenship, and from the highest to the lowest, from the most prominent business men of the place down to the urchin on the street, there was a tinge and tone and tincture of real human sorrow on that day with respect to the passing away of one whom everyone felt was his personal friend.

I am glad to be able to speak just a word of tribute to a man who so made his way in the world and whose memory stands as an example of what can be achieved from an humble origin under the opportunities we have in America for our boys, and who in achieving that success practiced the precepts of the golden rule, and did not forget the feelings and the rights and the sensibilities of his neighbors.

Mr. MICHENER. Mr. Speaker, may I ask that unanimous consent be granted to all those who desire to extend their remarks on the life, character, and public services of former Congressman SMITH?

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JOHN M. C. SMITH

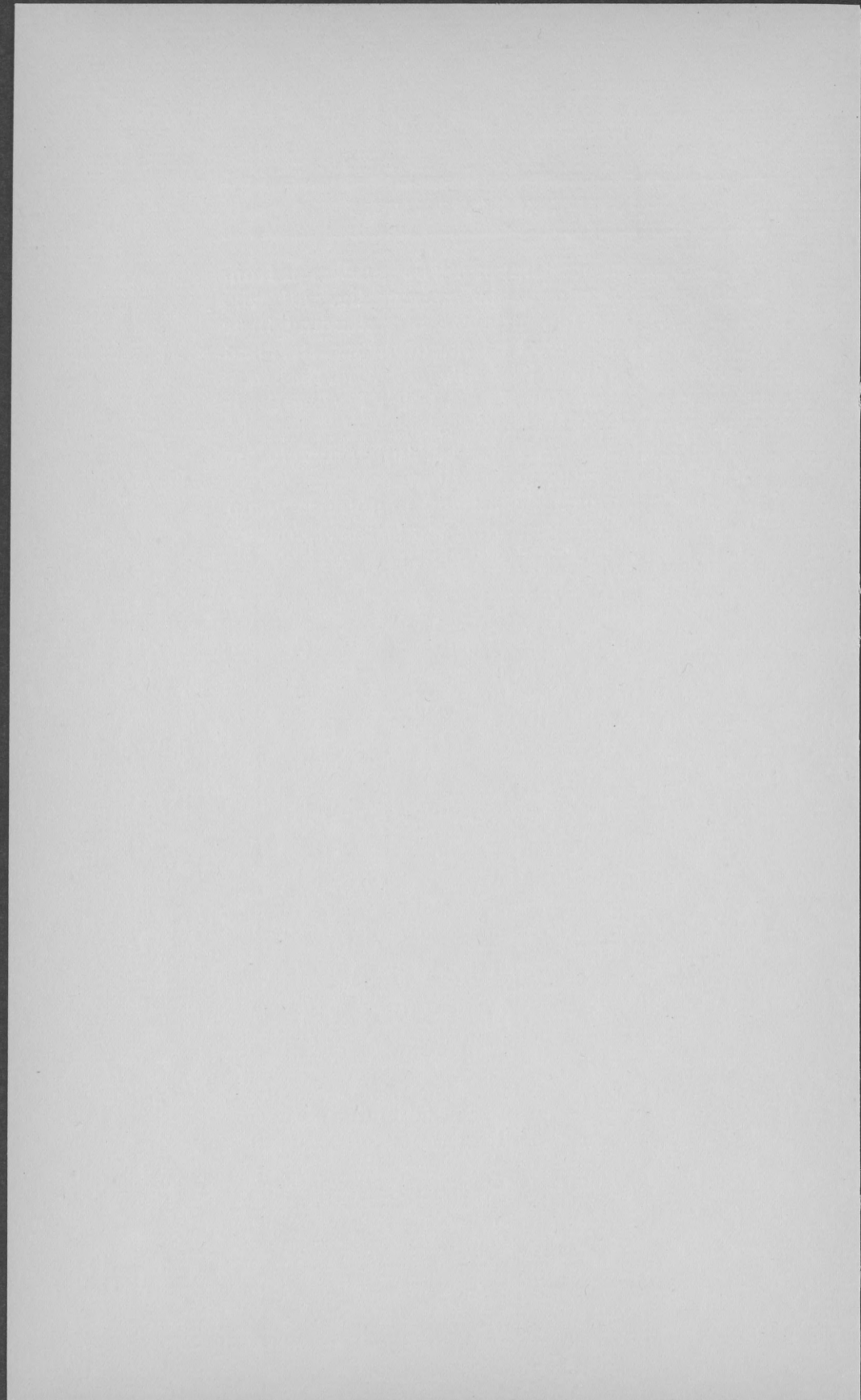
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The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan asks unanimous consent that all who wish may have the privilege of extending their remarks in the Record on the life, character, and public services of our late colleague, J. M. C. SMITH. Is there objection? [After a pause.] The Chair hears none, and it is so ordered.

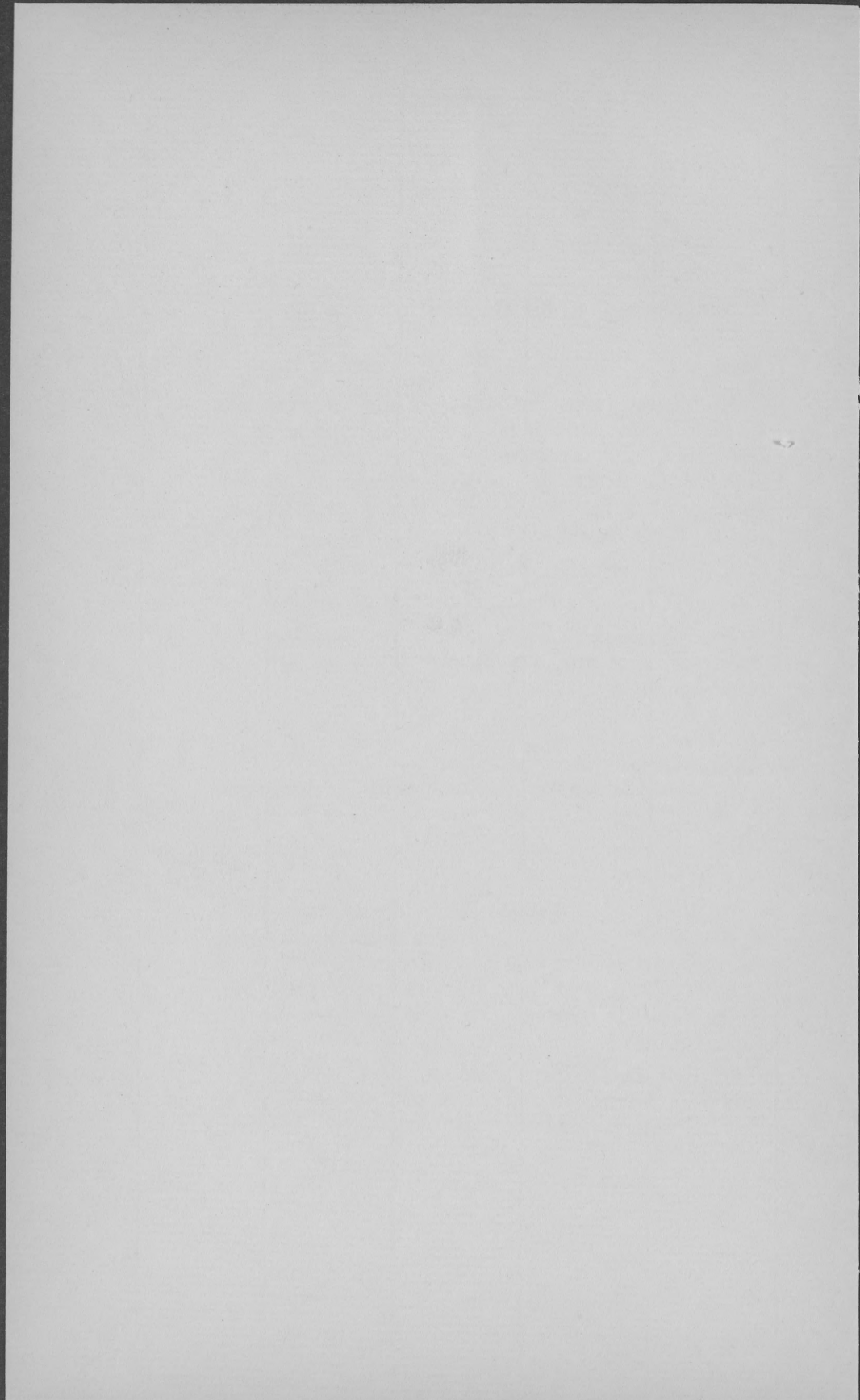
In accordance with the resolution heretofore adopted, the House stands adjourned.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m.) the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, April 28, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon.





Proceedings  
in the  
United States Senate



## Proceedings in the United States Senate

THURSDAY, *December 6, 1923.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Chaffee, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Michigan, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

MONDAY, *December 10, 1923.*

The PRESIDENT pro tempore laid before the Senate a resolution (H. Res. 20) of the House of Representatives, which was read, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, a Representative from the State of Michigan.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

*Resolved*, That as a further mark of respect this House do now adjourn.

Mr. COUZENS. Mr. President, I submit the resolution which I send to the desk, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The resolution (S. Res. 42) was read, considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to, as follows:

*Resolved*, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. JOHN M. C. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

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*Resolved further*, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Mr. WADSWORTH. Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Representative whose death has just been announced, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m.) the Senate adjourned until to-morrow, Tuesday, December 11, 1923, at 12 o'clock meridian.

MONDAY, April 28, 1924.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Haltigan, one of its clerks, communicated to the Senate the resolutions of the House (H. Res. 271) adopted as a tribute to the memory of Hon. J. M. C. SMITH, late a Representative from the State of Michigan.

